BENGALURU, SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2026 www.Bangaloremirror.com 16 Pages PRICE ₹4

Bangalore Mirror ON SUNDAY

TEMP Max 27 | Min 14 | Humidity 31% Partly sunny Sensex 83,570 | Nifty 25,694 | Gold 1,42,474 | Silver 2,87,701 | Dollar 90.73 | Euro 105.42 | GBP 121.62

JAIL FAIL

Reforms panel suggests changes after debilitating staff shortages, technological gaps leave K'taka's prisons in doldrums

PAGE 6

FLYOVER UPDATES

While Yelahanka flyover project misses multiple deadlines, there is better news from Peenya as its flyover set to open

PAGE 7

Over 851 acres of lake land remain encroached upon with private parties, influential individuals and govt agencies gobbling up chunks of it; 19 lakes have disappeared entirely

CURIOUS CASE OF VANISHING LAKES

30-metre buffer zones reduced around 172 lakes

| Sridhar.Vivan
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TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

Lakes and stormwater drains in the city are facing a severe crisis. Of the city's 202 lakes, 851.11 acres remain encroached, while 19 water bodies have disappeared entirely. Despite repeated surveys and government deadlines, municipalities have failed to act, leaving thousands of acres under illegal occupation.

Of the 202 lakes in the city, only 183 remain functional, covering 6,460.10 acres. Around 19 lakes have lost their original form and are now lifeless. Encroachments affect 949.26 acres, but authorities have cleared only 38.09 acres so far. Following the formation of Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), 183 lakes were transferred to five municipalities, yet no significant action has been taken to protect or restore them.

Sources said that private parties have taken over 197.9 acres of lake land. In addition, government departments including BBMP, BDA, Namma Metro, BWSSB, KAIDB, BMTC, Railways, schools, parks, playgrounds, and police stations

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

"Development of 156 lakes has reportedly cost ₹2,322.55 crore. Despite such investment, these lakes remain polluted and encroached upon. Annual maintenance expenses reach ₹31.12 crore —Nanda Kumar, lake activist

Your con is delivered

Simple delivery call can hijack your phone using USSD codes

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Despite a 32.3% drop in reported cybercrime cases in Karnataka in 2025 compared to the previous year 2024, cybercriminals are far from retreating. Instead, they are reinventing their playbook. In the latest such con, a simple routine such as a missed delivery call or a request to dial a code while delivering parcels can end up wiping out victims' life savings in minutes.

The National Cybercrime Threat Analytics Unit (NCTAU) has flagged a growing number of cases in which fraudsters impersonate courier or delivery agents to gain control over people's mobile phones.

Imagine ordering an item online and getting a call around the delivery date from someone claiming to be a courier agent, saying your parcel cannot be delivered due to an address or verification issue. In a calm and convincing manner, the caller may ask you to share an OTP or follow a simple verification step.

Chetan Anand, National Cyber Security Scholar and Cybercrime Intervention Officer, warns that such calls are often the first move in a scam designed to mislead customers into revealing sensitive information.

Moments after the call, you receive an SMS containing a USSD code such as 21, #0035#, or a similar sequence. The caller urges you to dial it, presenting it as a routine verification step. When you dial the code, you unknowingly activate a hidden feature cleverly exploited by cyber

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Dance magic

Experience a powerful double bill by South Korea's Melancholy Dance Company, presenting Your Symptoms and Flight as part of the 12th Attakkalari India Biennial. **Where: Prestige Centre for Performing Arts; When: January 25, 7.30 pm**

02 Art exhibition

Discover young creative voices at Srishti, a student art exhibition by Studioviya celebrating inclusivity, community spirit, and artistic journeys at the Heartfullness Community Center. **Where: Heartfullness Community Center, Haralur; When: January 18,11.30 am**

03 Classical concert

Celebrate the New Year with a special Carnatic music concert by the Malladi Brothers and party at Nadasurabhi, with free entry and accessible seating. **Where: Lecture Theatre 1, Golden Jubilee Building, St John's Medical College, Koramangala When: Jan 18, 4.15 pm**

04 Music festival

Mark 25 years of TCS Ruhaniyat – Seeking the Divine, a soulful celebration of mystic poetry and sacred music, bringing messages of love, unity, and peace to Bengaluru. **Where: Jayamahal Palace Hotel; When: January 24, 6.15 pm**

05 Craft bazaar

Enjoy Karigar Bazaar's 2nd edition at Jayamahal Palace Hotel to explore India's living craft traditions with artisans, cultural performances, workshops, regional cuisines, and heritage experiences. Fun for all ages! **Where: Jayamahal Palace Hotel; When: Jan 17–26, 11 am – 8 pm**

State tableau will miss Republic Day parade

FILE PHOTO

Karnataka will not feature a tableau in this year's Republic Day parade in New Delhi, as the Centre did not approve the state's proposal. The tableau, themed "Millets to Microchip," was intended to showcase Karnataka's contributions to Atmanirbhar Bharat, from agriculture and millets to advanced technology and semiconductor innovation. While it will not appear along Kartavya Path, officials confirmed arrangements have been made for the tableau to be displayed for public viewing at Pragati Maidan instead. **— BMB**

NIMHANS steps in to tackle child technology addiction

Community based NIMHANS programme supports parents tackling children's technology addiction and associated emotional challenges

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As screens increasingly dominate children's lives and family conversations slowly fade, parents across Bengaluru and beyond are growing concerned about excessive gaming, social media use and mobile phone dependence among their children. Addressing these worries, the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru, has launched a structured, community-based programme aimed at empowering parents with skills to manage technology addiction at home.

Parent support programme

Through its SHUT Clinic (Service for Healthy Use of Technology) and the NIMHANS Centre for Well Being (NCWB), the institute has been conducting the Parent Group for Management of Technology Addiction, a weekly programme designed for parents struggling with their child's unhealthy technology use. The initiative focuses on equipping parents with practical behavioural and cognitive techniques, while also creating a safe space for them to share experiences, concerns and coping strategies with one another.

The programme is structured around two key sessions. The first introduces parents to cyber literacy in the context of mental health, helping them understand how excessive technology use can contribute to emotional, behavioural and psychological issues in children. Parents are also guided through common mental health difficulties and skill gaps that often coexist with harmful technology use. This session helps families recognise early warning signs and understand the broader impact of unregulated screen exposure.

Digital fatigue seen in children despite high energy and continued device use

Improving family communication

The second session focuses on communication patterns within families. Parents are encouraged to recognise unhealthy interactions, set appropriate limits, and learn conflict resolution skills. These include identifying triggers, de-escalating tense situations and repairing relationships after conflicts, with the aim of restoring trust and open dialogue within the family unit.

Managing screen time

Speaking to BM, Dr Manoj Sharma, Head of the SHUT Clinic, said the response to the programme has been overwhelming. "NIMHANS has been conducting this programme for the past five months and it is held every week with two sessions each. Initially, when we started the programme, we received 5,000 registrations and we have successfully provided effective management techniques to parents," he said.

Dr Sharma noted that parents are particularly keen to learn communication methods that encourage children without harming family bonds. "Parents are interested in what communication they can use to encourage the child and not disturb the family relationship. They want to know how to build up and negotiate mobile phone usage time, especially because there is a decrease in family communication," he explained.

According to him, most parents who approach the programme have children between the ages of five and 18. "Parents who are complaining are of children between five and 18 years. In the clinic, we are mostly seeing the 15 to 18 age group," he said, highlighting adolescence as a particularly vulnerable phase for technology addiction.

On the issue of digital fatigue, Dr Sharma said that while it is widely discussed among adults, children experience it too, though they rarely acknowledge it. "Digital fatigue is seen in children as well. But children's enthusiasm and energy levels are high and they deny it and continue using technology. Adults, however, accept the fatigue and stop using it," he said.

> **"How to build up and negotiate the time of mobile phone usage, because there is a decrease in family communication**
> – Dr Manoj Sharma
> Head of the SHUT Clinic

He added that while the SHUT Clinic often receives severe addiction cases at a late stage, the parent group programme allows for much earlier intervention. Through community outreach, the initiative has already reached around 7,000 parents, many of whom report positive outcomes. Anger management and conflict handling remain among the most common concerns raised, with parents seeking ways to de-escalate situations and encourage healthy, non-digital activities at home.

Visually impaired students allowed digital exams

In a first for the state syllabus, visually impaired students appearing for the II PUC examination will be allowed to write their exams digitally, using laptops or computers. The Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board has decided to extend a facility that was so far limited to CBSE students, marking a major shift towards inclusive assessment in the state curriculum. The initiative will be implemented from the 2025–26 academic year, giving eligible students the option to take exams without relying entirely on scribes.

How it works

Visually impaired candidates opting for the digital exam must submit a valid medical certificate and obtain approval from the district deputy director. An official said, "Students will have to bring their own laptop or computer, which can be used strictly for answering the question paper. Separate rooms will be arranged at exam centres, with lecturers appointed as room supervisors. While most students can write independently using assistive software, those with typing difficulties will still be allowed limited help only for typing. Answer scripts typed digitally will be printed, verified and signed by the invigilator before submission."

Why it matters

Until now, visually impaired PU students depended largely on scribes, often facing practical difficulties and errors in transcription. The digital mode is expected to reduce mistakes, give students more control over their answers and allow them to think and respond independently. "We have permitted the use of laptops and computers for visually impaired students. This is the first time such a facility is being extended at the PU level," said a senior official. Bengaluru-based educators say the move, already familiar to SSLC students, could boost confidence and set the stage for wider use of technology in board exams across the state. **— BMB**

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State election commission releases draft rolls

In connection with elections to five city corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority, the State Election Commission will publish ward wise draft voters lists on January 19. On the same day at eleven am, a joint press conference will be held at the GBA headquarters by the State Election Commissioner.

Later at 3.30 pm, a coordination meeting chaired by the State Election Commission Chairman will be convened with participation from the District Election Officer, GBA Special Officer on Duty, Special Election Commissioner, commissioners of five municipal corporations, additional and assistant district election officers, and officials involved in election management.

The meeting will review preparedness of ward wise voters lists and discuss publication of draft rolls, uploading them on the official website for public access, and processing applications for inclusion, correction, transfer, and deletion of names under the GBA Voter Registration Rules twenty twenty five.

Discussions will also cover door to door verification surveys, training of voter registration officers and booth level officers, and preparation of supplementary lists after incorporating eligible changes, ensuring accuracy, transparency, and readiness ahead of elections. **— BMB**

Concrete tea stall barrier crops up on Indiranagar footpath

Citizens urge BCCC and GBA authorities to remove illegal petty shop, maintain quality, and restore safe pedestrian access immediately

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If the concretisation of a footpath near CMH Road in Indiranagar is any indication, it seems the contractors are set to carry out developmental works as per their whims and fancies and have decided to regularise illegal petty shops put up on footpaths in the city.

Residents are up in arms against the contractor for concretising the footpath without shifting the petty shop (Rajan Tea Stall) to a nearby location to ensure quality in the upgradation of the footpath. They said the petty shop was meant to repair sandals and shoes but the beneficiary has converted it into a tea stall. They said the person owning the petty shop also sells cigarettes and tobacco products.

The residents demand the Bengaluru Central City Corporation (BCCC) authorities to ensure quality in the development of the footpath and clear all encroachments to make it pedestrian friendly. "Footpath is meant for pedestrians. The petty shop has become a hurdle for pedestrians. The contractor, by concretising the footpath without removing the petty shop, has made the petty shop a permanent structure. I want the authorities concerned to take suitable action," said Ajith Kumar, a resident.

Expressing a similar opinion, Ashk Sarath, a resident, said that by cementing this stall in place while doing the footpath, GBA engineering department is legitimising and making permanent a stall that was meant to be a cobbler stall, but is now selling tea and cigarettes. "This is how GBA encourages violations," he said. Stating that GBA needs to have its contractor on the ground monitoring the work, Sneha Nandihal of I Change Indiranagar said that in this case an illegal petty shop has been legitimised.

The tea shop on the footpath near CMH Road

> **"By cementing this stall in place while doing the footpath, GBA engineering department is legitimising, and making permanent, a stall that was meant to be a cobbler stall, but is now selling tea and cigarettes. This is how GBA encourages violationst**
> – Ashk Sarath, resident

When contacted over the phone, D Rajan, the owner of Rajan Tea Stall, said that he converted the petty shop meant for repairing sandals and shoes into a tea shop as there was no demand for repairing sandals and shoes. "I also wrote a letter to the GBA informing them of converting the petty shop into a tea shop," said Rajan.

However, BCCC Executive Engineer (CV Raman Nagar) said that he had already directed Rajan to shift the petty shop to another location to facilitate workers carrying the footpath. "The petty shop has to be shifted to another location by Tuesday," the executive engineer said.

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IMPACT: Flow restored

Sultanpalya

Following a BM report, a junction box on KHB Road, Sultanpalya was cleared, restoring smooth traffic flow and easing congestion in the area.

Public nuisance

Devatha Plaza

For more than a decade, persistent public urination at Devatha Plaza has left the area dirty and foul-smelling, exposing ongoing civic neglect despite repeated promises.

Civic action

Austin Town

Following the photo published in this column, civic authorities cleared and cleaned Austin Town Park, restoring the area for public use.

Phase-3 metro to boost city connectivity

Namma Metro network set for 44.65 km expansion by 2031 with Phase-3 tenders and new interchange stations

Bengaluru's Metro network is set to expand by another 44.65 km by 2031, with the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) inviting open e-tenders for Phase-3 works worth ₹4,187.41 crore. The tenders cover three packages spanning 18.581 km and include the construction of metro viaducts, stations, and train-road double-decker flyovers. The Phase-3 corridors are expected to significantly improve connectivity along the Outer Ring Road and Magadi Road stretches, adding fresh capacity to the city's fast-growing transit network by the end of the decade.

Sources said Phase-3 comprises

two key corridors: the 32.15-km Orange Line from JP Nagar 4th Phase to Kempapura along the Outer Ring Road, and a 12.5-km corridor from Hosahalli to Kadabagere on Magadi Road, together accounting for 44.65 km of new Metro lines. BMRCL plans to award a total of eight packages under Phase-3, six on the ORR stretch and two on Magadi Road. Tenders for the remaining five packages will be floated in March or April after the Japan International Cooperation Agency signs a loan agreement of ₹6,775 crore. The Metro component of Phase-3 is estimated to cost ₹15,611 crore, while the 37.12-km double-decker structures will cost ₹9,692.33 crore, fully funded by the state government. A BMRCL official said, "Although statutory approvals for Phase-3 were secured in August 2024, the tendering process was delayed due to revisions in the double-decker design and updated land acquisition estimates. To speed up execution, BMRCL has decided to award both Metro and double-decker works to the same agencies."

Phase-3 will feature seven interchange stations, including JP Nagar 4th Phase, Mysuru Road, Goraguntepalya and Hosahalli, strengthening integration with existing Purple, Green, Pink and Blue lines as Bengaluru prepares for its next major leap in Metro expansion by 2031. **— BMB**

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND J.M.F.C AT HOSAKOTE.
C.Mis No 424/2025

Between: 1. Smt.Munithayamma W/o Late Narayanappa, Aged about 75 years, 2. Sri. Anjinappa S/o Late Narayanappa, Aged about 52 years, 3.Sri.M.N.Munegowda S/o Late Narayanappa, Aged about 50 years, 4.Smt. Varalakshmi D/o Late Narayanappa, Aged about 46 years.R/at Tadur Village, Kasba Hobli, Sidlgatta Taluk, Chikkaballapura District. 5. Sri.M.N.Gopal S/o Late Narayanappa, Aged about 42 years, 1 to 3 and 5 are R/at-Maliyappanahalli Village, Nandagudi Hobli, Hosakote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. ...Petitioners.

-Vs-

The Tahasildar, Birth and Death registrar, Hosakote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. ...Respondent

NOTICE TO GENERAL PUBLICS

Whereas, the petitioners have filed the above petition seeking direction to the Tahsildhar HoskoteTaluk, to enter the date of death of The Husband of the petitioner no. 1 and Father of the petitioner no.2 to 5 by name Narayanappa S/o Late Venkatappa died on 08.07.2015 at Maliyappanahalli Village, Nandagudi Hobli, Hosakote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. The case is posted for posted for appearance of interested parties on 19.02.2026 at 11 AM. Before Additional Civil Judge and JMFC at Hosakote. Hence interested parties are hereby required to appear in person/Advocate, failing whom the above cases will be disposed on merits as per the law. Given under my hand and seal of the court this day of 13.1.2026.

By Order of the Court
Sd/- Sheristedar
Civil Judge & JMFC court Hoskote.

Advocate for Plaintiff
Sd/- B.LAKSHMIKANTHAPPA.
Office: No. 1, 1st Floor, 5TH "A"cross, Behind court, I.B Road, Hosakote Town, HosakoteTaluk, Bengaluru Rural District. 562114. MOB:-9731863894.

Cops accused in 88 cases: Unforgivable crime, says CM

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Home Minister G Parameshwara convened a meeting with police to intensify efforts against crime, with a focus on drug trafficking and cybercrime, on Saturday.

Siddaramaiah said, "The police department is working well in some stations, while in others it is not working properly." He pointed out that police personnel were themselves involved in around 88 cases. "It is an unforgivable crime to go beyond the fence and graze the field. This is not only a bad name for the state government, but also for the police department," he said.

Siddaramaiah noted that overall crime in Karnataka has been declining since 2023 and highlighted that Kavithal police station in Raichur district had been ranked third among the best police stations, even initiative 'Mane Manage' policing' ranking third nationally.

He further said that no crime can take place without the awareness of senior police officers, including sub-inspectors, ASPs, DySPs, and ACPs. Police have been instructed

to perform their duties with utmost vigilance, safeguard the vulnerable, and ensure they do not act as instruments of the powerful, he said.

While crimes such as theft, robbery, extortion and murder were decreasing, the Chief Minister expressed concern over the rise in cybercrime and drug-related offences. Reiterating the government's commitment to making Karnataka a drug-free state, he said strict action must be taken, including deporting foreigners involved in drug trafficking without delay. He also questioned if Maharashtra Police can bust drug factories like one found in Mysuru and recently in Bengaluru also, then why couldn't our police notice or bust it.

Home minister Parameshwara also pointed at the increasing menace of cybercrime, noting that innocent citizens are losing lakhs of rupees daily. He said the government had set up separate departments for cybercrime and drug control but acknowledged that enforcement had not met expectations. "The world is watching Bengaluru city. It should not be a hindrance to cybercrime," he said.

—BMB

Dashcam video exposes knife-threat road rage

The Kadugodi police have registered a case against a scooter rider for allegedly threatening a car driver with a knife during a road rage incident on Friday evening. The case came to light after the victim shared dashcam footage of the confrontation on social media, prompting swift police action.

The complainant, identified as A Reddy, had captured the incident on his car's dashboard camera and later posted the video on the Bengaluru City Police's official X (formerly Twitter) handle, seeking immediate intervention. Acting on the footage, a police constable from the Kadugodi Police Station filed a suo motu complaint.

The video shows a biker riding ahead of the car suddenly pulling out a knife and pointing it at the driver. The confrontation reportedly began after a close call while overtaking. When both vehicles stopped at a traffic signal, the biker, later identified as Arbaaz Khan, allegedly got off his two-wheeler, approached the car with a knife, hurled abuses, threatened the driver with dire consequences, and issued death threats before fleeing the spot.

Based on the scooter's registration number visible in the footage, police identified the accused as Arbaz Khan and registered an FIR. A search operation has been launched to trace and arrest him. Further investigation is underway.

—BMB

Three college students killed in road mishap

Three college students were killed on the spot in a tragic road accident after the two-wheeler they were travelling on lost control and collided with a tipper lorry near Agalakote village on the Channahalli–Bettakote Road on Saturday morning.

The accident occurred around 11.20 am within the limits of the Devanahalli Traffic Police Station. Police said Manikantha (20) was riding the two-wheeler at a high speed with two pillion riders — Srinivas (19) and Tauseef (19). All three were residents of Chikkajala and were pursuing degree courses at different colleges.

According to preliminary investigations, the rider lost control while negotiating a curve near Agalakote village, causing the two-wheeler to hit the road divider and skid onto the opposite carriageway. A tipper lorry heading from Budigere towards Devanahalli allegedly ran over the youths, killing them instantly.

The lorry driver fled the scene but was later traced, and the vehicle was seized. The driver, Ningappa M Kattimani from Bijapura, was arrested. Police have registered a case for rash and negligent driving. Further investigation is underway.

—BMB

Vigilantism row: activist held, released on bail

Bannerghatta police arrested right-wing activist Puneeth Kerehalli on Friday night for allegedly trespassing into a house and threatening its owner over renting the premises to migrant tenants. He was later granted bail by a local court on Saturday.

According to police, the case stems from a complaint filed on January 13 by Siddesh, a resident of Doddathoguru, who alleged that Kerehalli and his associates entered his house without permission. The complainant stated that Kerehalli verbally abused and threatened him for renting the property to migrant workers, whom he suspected to be Bangladeshi nationals.

Police also arrested Kerehalli's associate, Nagendrappa, for allegedly mobilising people to stage protests in the locality. On Saturday, hundreds of Kerehalli's supporters gathered outside the police station, raising slogans against the police and the ruling government while he was produced in court.

Earlier, members of the Campaign Against Hate Speech had petitioned the Police Commissioner, alleging repeated harassment and intimidation of migrant workers by Kerehalli. The incident has renewed concerns over vigilantism targeting migrant communities in Bengaluru.

—BMB

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24/7 Emergency : 1066

40-47% vacancies, tech lapses found in state prisons

High-level panel flags manpower shortages, weak surveillance, delayed probes, and calls for sweeping infrastructure, training, and welfare reforms across central prisons

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A high-level committee reviewing the state of Karnataka's central prisons has submitted a comprehensive set of recommendations aimed at reforming infrastructure, security, and prisoner welfare on Wednesday.

After videos went viral in November 2025 showing inmates, including notorious criminals, at Bengaluru's Parappana Agrahara Central Jail using mobile phones, dancing, and allegedly enjoying preferential treatment, Karnataka Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara issued strict directions for immediate corrective measures. A high-level committee headed by ADGP R Hitendra was subsequently constituted to probe the security lapses. The panel visited all central prisons in Karnataka and also studied facilities at Tihar Prison in Delhi and Chanchalguda Central Prison in Telangana, besides examining earlier reports and carrying out field inspections.

The committee found a severe shortage of manpower across Karnataka's prison system, with vacancies ranging between 40 and 47 per cent. Parappana Agrahara Prison currently houses 4,834 inmates but has only 571 staff members, leaving 388 sanctioned posts vacant and resulting in a prisoner-to-staff ratio of 1:8.47, against the recommended 1:6. Other prisons show even starker gaps, with Mysuru Central Prison housing 774 inmates with 133 staff and Ballari Prison holding 457 inmates with 93 staff, leading to ratios as high as 1:18 and 1:24.

Limited CCTV coverage and delayed investigations into prison crimes highlight systemic lapses in security oversight and accountability

After viral videos exposed security failures, a state-appointed committee proposes modern surveillance, stronger staffing norms, faster investigations, and skill-focused inmate engagement to overhaul Karnataka's overstretched prison system

To address these issues, the committee recommended immediate filling of vacancies, limiting staff tenure to a maximum of three years in a single prison, and introducing mandatory annual training in security, technology, and prison administration. It also proposed infrastructure upgrades such as compulsory buffer zones, increasing perimeter wall heights to 30 feet, installation of anti-throwing nets, and strengthened surveillance systems.

The report highlighted disparities in CCTV coverage, noting that while Tihar Prison has around 8,600 cameras covering 53.75 per cent of inmates, Parappana Agrahara has only 332 cameras covering just 6.6 per cent. It recommended expanded CCTV networks, AI-enabled cameras to detect smoking and mobile phone use, 5G-compatible mobile signal jammers, and a centralised Prison Command Centre.

Between January 2021 and November 15, 2025, a total of 154 FIRs were registered in Bengaluru over illegal activities inside central prisons. However, none had moved beyond the police station stage, indicating delays in investigation.

The committee also stressed engaging inmates in productive activities, suggesting voluntary work for undertrials and skill-based labour for convicts, along with counselling, vocational training, and post-release employment support.

Rural service mandatory, but postings sparse

A decade-old rule mandating rural service for medical graduates in Karnataka has become a significant hurdle for many young doctors, effectively stalling their careers. The policy requires MBBS graduates to complete compulsory rural service before registering with the Karnataka Medical Council (KMC). While the rule once helped address shortages in rural hospitals, sources say the situation has changed due to increased recruitment and a sharp rise in government quota medical seats. As a result, many graduates are unable to secure rural postings. Without KMC registration, they cannot work in private hospitals, begin independent practice, or apply for postgraduate courses. With temporary registration barred under national regulations and the High Court upholding the policy, thousands of doctors remain stuck, waiting for a resolution that will allow them to move forward professionally.

–BMB

Veteran Congress leader Bheemanna Khandre no more

Former Karnataka minister Bheemanna Khandre passed away late on Friday at the age of 102 due to age-related ailments, his son and Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre said. A freedom fighter, veteran Congress leader and cooperative movement stalwart from the Kalyana Karnataka region, Khandre breathed his last at his residence in Bhalki. He is survived by two sons and four daughters.

A prominent leader of the Veerashaiva Lingayat community, Khandre had served as Karnataka's Transport Minister in the cabinet headed by Veerappa Moily. He had been suffering from age-related ailments and respiratory problems for the past 10–12 days and was initially admitted to a private hospital in Bidar before continuing treatment at home.

A lawyer by profession, Khandre began public life as the first elected president of the Bhalki Municipality in 1953. He entered the Legislative Assembly in 1962, served four terms as MLA and was a Legislative Council member twice. He also played a key role in founding cooperative sugar factories in Hallikheda and Hunji, and contributed to the Naranja and Karanja irrigation projects. **–PTI**

Of 949.26 acres encroached on, only 38.09 acres cleared

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

have encroached on several lakes. Influential private individuals have also built structures on lake land, making restoration challenging.

Activists said that the government has reduced the 30-metre buffer zones around 172 lakes, despite opposition from environmentalists and the public. Only 11 large lakes covering over 100 acres each retain the full 30-metre protected zone, as per the Karnataka Lake Conservation and Development Authority Act, 2024. For smaller lakes, the buffer zones have been proportionally reduced, further compromising conservation efforts.

"Development of 156 lakes has reportedly cost 2,322.55 crore. Despite such investment, these lakes remain polluted and encroached. Annual maintenance expenses reach ₹31.12 crore, yet no significant recovery of encroached land has occurred. Repeated expenditures on already-developed lakes continue without tangible results," said Nanda Kumar, a lake activist.

Deadline Ignored

Since BBMP's tenure, officials have been given deadlines to remove encroachments, but enforcement remains weak. Even after repeated High Court interventions, state authorities have failed to implement conservation measures. Officers assigned responsibilities have not been held accountable, leaving lakes and stormwater drains at risk.

Citizens and activists warn that unchecked encroachments could have serious consequences for Bengaluru's water security. "With 851 acres still occupied and buffer zones shrinking, the city faces an urgent need for decisive action. Without immediate intervention, the crisis may worsen, threatening both urban ecology and public access to natural water bodies," added Kavita Joseph, a lake activist.

Action soon

Meanwhile GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao said, "There are 59 lakes within the limits of the Bengaluru South City Corporation. Survey and boundary marking have already been completed in 43 of these lakes, and eviction notices have been issued in 21 lakes where illegal encroachments have been identified. Officials have been instructed to immediately initiate eviction operations to clear these encroachments and protect the lake boundaries."

He said that to improve groundwater levels in the city, he has directed officials to conduct a comprehensive survey of all open wells within the South City Corporation limits and prepare a Detailed Project Report for their rejuvenation, followed by necessary action.

Crooks pose as delivery agents

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

fraudsters. "That single action can allow them to hijack your phone by enabling call forwarding, diverting bank alerts, OTPs and verification calls directly to them," Chetan Anand explains.

With access to these details, cybercriminals can reset banking credentials, take over financial apps, and drain bank accounts within minutes.

According to several media reports, at peak times, leading e-commerce platforms in India such as Amazon and Flipkart handle anywhere between 5,000 and 18,000 shipments every minute. By late 2025, the country's booming e-commerce sector was processing over 7.3 million shipments in a single day during peak periods translating to more than 300,000 orders every hour. In a system operating at such a massive scale, a routine delivery call hardly raises suspicion. It is this opportunity that cyber fraudsters exploit, turning an ordinary online order into a trap.

Chetan Anand says the scam is particularly dangerous because it does not require victims to click on suspicious links or install malware. "These cyber fraudsters would convince us with some story and we dial and activate this feature that tricks victims into activating call forwarding. These USSD codes are legitimate telecom commands, and many users are unaware of their functions. Fraudsters exploit this lack of awareness," he said.

According to an advisory on USSD based call forwarding scam by the Ministry of Home affairs, citizens are cautioned against a scam involving misuse of USSD codes.

"Never dial or enter any USSD code starting with 21, 61, 67, or similar prefixes if it is shared by an unknown caller. If call forwarding has been activated without your knowledge, dial ##002# to immediately cancel all call forwarding services, including busy, unreachable, and no-answer forwarding. Avoid clicking on suspicious courier or delivery links received via SMS, WhatsApp, or email, and always verify delivery details directly through the official website or customer care helpline of the courier service. Any fraudulent app or suspected scam should be reported without delay by calling 1930 or visiting www.cybercrime.gov.in " says Chetan Anand.

THE SUNDAY READ

TALE OF 2 FLYOVERS

Work in progress...

Repeated extensions for Yelahanka flyover worsen commuter hardships, ongoing construction and lane restrictions create severe bottlenecks across major roads

Single-lane stretch worsens peak hour congestion, commuters forced to navigate narrow road

| Garima Prasher
garima.prasher@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Residents of Yelahanka and nearby areas will have to wait longer for relief from traffic woes as the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has once again extended the completion deadline of the Yelahanka flyover project.

According to GBA, the flyover is now expected to become operational by September this year, at the earliest.

The project awarded in January 2022 was initially expected to be completed by June 2023, as per its detailed project report. GBA, erstwhile Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, had then announced that it planned to wrap up the project by December 2022 itself. However, multiple deadlines have passed since then.

The flyover was first expected to be inaugurated by June 2023, which was later moved to December 2023, followed by a series of extended deadlines of December 2024, March 2025, and December 2025.

The most recent of all deadlines set for completion was May 2026.

"After we took over the charge, we have cleared various bottlenecks, including shifting of BWSSB water lines and resolving payment issues with BESCOM. While the contractor has requested September as the work completion deadline, we have pushed for August," said Sunil Kumar, commissioner, North City Corporation.

Notably, the project, in the past, has been marred by various issues such as a shortage of manpower or construction materials, untimely rain, and high traffic.

One of the main factors leading to the delay, as per officials, is a surge in vehicular traffic on Doddaballapur Main Road, leading to fewer working hours.

GBA cites lack of alternative roads to divert traffic from Doddaballapur Main Road during the day. Thus, on-ground work takes place between 11 pm and 5 am.

"While we are pushing to wrap up the flyover work by August, the contractor has been citing a shortage in work hours. Currently, nearly 70 percent of the physical work on the flyover is completed. Given the amount of traffic on the road, an increasing workforce will not be fruitful," added Kumar.

While the flyover completion is now delayed by more than three years from its original deadline, regular commuters say they have no choice but to suffer daily in this chaos.

Many living in clusters of apartments on Dodaballapur Main Road commute towards the city to reach their offices. Moreover, a large number of commuters on the stretch include workers of the Doddaballapur industrial area. With the ongoing flyover work, the stretch has been reduced to a single lane, leading to traffic chaos.

"Apart from flyover construction work, the Dodaballapur Main road is now dug up at multiple spots, probably for the water line shifting work. This has made the traffic situation worse. During morning and evening peak traffic hours, navigating this stretch is a nightmare. The project began with 18 months deadline and has been dragged to more than 50 months, which goes on to show total lack of accountability and officials' apathy," said a regular commuter.

The flyover was first expected to be inaugurated by June 2023, which was later moved to December 2023, followed by a series of extended deadlines of December 2024, March 2025, and December 2025

Opening soon

| Sridhar.Vivan @timesofindia.com

TWEETS @sridharvMirror

As Bengaluru looks ahead to 2026, commuters and freight operators have reason to be optimistic. After nearly five years of restrictions, the Peenya flyover on Tumakuru Road is on course to reopen for round-the-clock traffic for all categories of vehicles, marking the end of a prolonged phase of congestion and uncertainty on one of the city's most critical corridors.

Final stretch

The long-standing curbs are set to be lifted once the last phase of repair work is completed. Of the 1,200 cables identified for replacement, only 30 are now pending.

The 4.2-km-long flyover, cutting through the Peenya industrial area, connects Goraguntepalya on Tumakuru Road to the Parle-G factory

Critical corridor

The 4.2-km-long flyover, cutting through the Peenya industrial area, connects Goraguntepalya on Tumakuru Road to the Parle-G factory. It is a vital link for traffic from more than 20 districts of Karnataka and also serves as a key route towards Goa and Maharashtra. Thousands of vehicles use the stretch daily, and restrictions over the past four years have pushed traffic onto service roads, worsening bottlenecks across north-west Bengaluru.

Safety concerns

Traffic was first restricted on December 25, 2021, after three cables between pillars 102 and 103 near the Eighth Mile junction were found bent. Following an inspection by experts from the Indian Institute of Science, the National Highways Authority of India banned vehicular movement on the flyover, citing damage caused by multi-wheel heavy vehicles. Subsequent load tests found the structure unfit for heavy traffic, leading to extended restrictions.

Phased repairs

In the initial phase, 240 new cables were installed across 120 pillars. As concreting was required after each installation, heavy vehicles were barred from using the flyover every week from Wednesday 6 am to Thursday 6 am. "The process was time-consuming but essential to ensure long-term structural stability," another official said.

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

DUSK'S SILENT CIRCLE

Our reader shares a striking image captured at Gangaur Ghat, Udaipur, where a flock of pigeon's circles back against the evening sky. Shot during sunset, the moment turns the calm lake and historic skyline into a living silhouette—an evocative reminder that, in nature's relentless cycle of survival, beauty and the shadow of death often coexist.

The picture was clicked by reader **Krytvi Sharma**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

Cauvery Phase V stalls, 110 B'luru villages await sewerage relief

Incomplete sewer networks, delayed STPs and disrupted pipelines leave outskirts without sanitation and drinking water despite Cauvery Phase V rollout

More than a year after the ambitious Cauvery Phase V project was rolled out, residents across 110 villages on Bengaluru's outskirts are still waiting for full-scale underground sewerage systems. While the project was meant to be a major boost to both water supply and sanitation, the reality on the ground tells a different story, with incomplete sewerage networks, delayed sewage treatment plants and patchy water supply continuing to trouble thousands of households.

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) implemented the Cauvery Phase V scheme in October 2024 at a cost of ₹5,550 crore, projecting it as a long-term solution to the city's growing water demand. The project draws around 775 million litres per day of Cauvery water from TK Halli in Malavalli taluk, nearly 100 km away. However, despite water being brought to the city, essential infrastructure within the 110 village limits remains incomplete, leaving several areas without dependable sewerage facilities and, in some cases, even drinking water.

PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

Under the plan to provide underground sewerage laterals to all 110 villages, work has been completed in 101 villages. The remaining villages were added later, with tenders floated in September last year. Officials say complete sewerage coverage will be provided only after works under the World Bank-funded Karnataka Water Security and Disaster Resilience Programme are completed, extending the wait further.

Drinking water supply to 10 villages has also been delayed due to infrastructure and legal hurdles. Road widening by the Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited

Though Cauvery water reaches the city, unfinished laterals, stalled treatment plants and legal roadblocks force thousands to rely on septic tanks, risking hygiene, groundwater contamination, and hardships across Bengaluru's periphery

between Varthur New Bridge and Varthur Police Station has disrupted pipelines, affecting areas such as Sorahunase, Varthur, Gunjur, Balagadde and parts of Honnathur in the Mahadevapura zone. Separately, land-related legal disputes over a proposed ground-level reservoir at Chokkanahalli have delayed supply to Srinivaspura, Kattigenahalli, Thirumenahalli and parts of Chokkanahalli.

The BWSSB is constructing 14 sewage treatment plants with a combined capacity of 124 MLD across the 110 villages. While a few are operational, others are expected to be commissioned between March and June. Until then, residents continue to rely on soak pits and septic tanks, raising hygiene and groundwater concerns. Construction of the 25 MLD STP at Varthur has not begun, as a land case remains before the Supreme Court. BWSSB Chairman Dr Ram Prasath Manohar said the Chokkanahalli land dispute has been resolved in the Board's favour and work will begin soon. Approval has been sought from the Forest Department for the proposed reservoir at Kadugodi. Residents say they hope these assurances finally translate into action. **— BMB**

DID YOU KNOW?

Nigeria has issued seven-year satellite permits to three new operators—Amazon's Kuiper Systems, Israel's NSLComm, and Germany-based Satelio IoT Services—broadening access to space-based broadband in Africa's largest telecoms market. The Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) said the approvals were granted under its commercial satellite communications guidelines, a licensing framework aimed at attracting investment and accelerating deployment of next-generation connectivity. The move advances the regulator's strategy to open Nigeria to non-geostationary satellite orbit (NGSO) systems, complementing existing operators such as Elon Musk-owned SpaceX. Under the permits, Amazon's Kuiper Systems will provide Ka-band broadband services via its planned 3,236-satellite Project Kuiper constellation from February 2026 through February 2033. NSLComm received clearance for its 264-satellite BeetleSat-1 network, while Satelio IoT Services was approved for a 491-satellite Internet of Things constellation, although only one satellite is currently operational. The NCC said the licences will help fast-track satellite broadband expansion and align Nigeria's telecom sector with global best practices. **— Reuters**

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AI vs Monkeys: Sub-Saharan African native Vervet monkeys are winning this duel against Artificial Intelligence

The Claim: Social media users claim multiple vervet monkeys have already been caught in St Louis, sharing photos as proof and suggesting authorities are hiding information about their ownership, number, and safety, amid confusion fuelled by AI-generated images circulating widely online platforms.
Fact: City officials say the monkeys remain at large, reports of capture are false, and many images are AI-generated. Animal control, with St Louis Zoo primate experts, is searching for up to four monkeys, which are illegal to own locally there.

Multiple vervet monkeys remain on the loose in St Louis, with AI-generated images complicating efforts to track them down. The monkeys were first spotted on Thursday near a park in the city's northern area, triggering widespread speculation and what officials describe as "rumour after rumour." According to the city's Department of Health, it is still unclear who owns the animals, how they escaped, or exactly how many are roaming free. Some residents have claimed to have captured the monkeys, even posting images online to support their assertions. However, officials say several of those images appear to be fake or AI-generated. As of Monday, the monkeys were still at large. Authorities say distinguishing real sightings from fabricated content has become a major challenge, with people often sharing posts "just for fun," rather than to mislead deliberately.

The highest number of monkeys reported in a single sighting is four. Because owning such animals is prohibited within city limits, officials doubt anyone will step forward to claim them. Animal control teams are currently working with primate specialists from the St Louis Zoo to safely locate and capture the animals. Vervet monkeys are native to sub-Saharan Africa and are sometimes called green monkeys due to the slight greenish tint of their fur. They typically weigh between 7 and 17 pounds. **— ET Online**

Govt dismisses claims of India suspending trade with Afghanistan

The Claim: Pakistani social media alleged India temporarily suspended Afghanistan trade, citing unrest in Iran disrupting transit routes and an official letter.
Fact: India rejected the claim as fabricated, Afghanistan trade continues, with 2024–25 exports USD 318.91 million and imports USD 689.81 million.

The government on Tuesday dismissed claims circulating on Pakistani social media platforms that India has suspended trade operations with Afghanistan due to unrest in Iran, calling the reports completely false. Officials said a fabricated letter is being shared by Pakistani propaganda accounts to mislead the public. Reacting to the misinformation, PIB Fact Check clarified in a social media post that no such decision has been taken by India and that trade with Afghanistan continues as usual. The clarification comes amid reports of widespread nationwide protests in Iran. In 2024–25, India's exports to Afghanistan stood at USD 318.91 million, while imports were valued at USD 689.81 million, reflecting ongoing trade ties. **— PTI**

Could AI convince you to buy something?

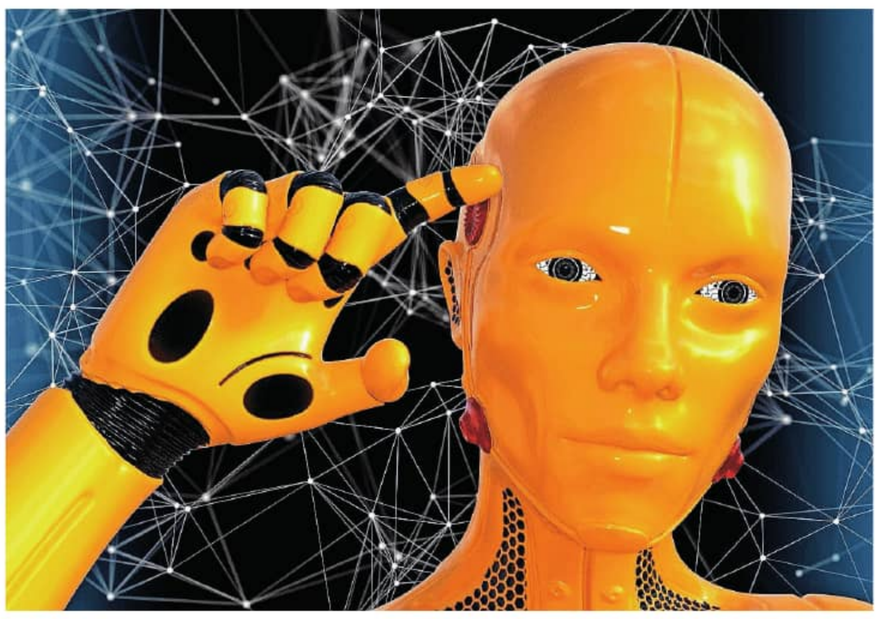
Threat of manipulation looms as AI companies gear up to sell ads

Eighteen months ago, it was plausible that artificial intelligence might take a different path than social media. Back then, AI's development hadn't consolidated under a small number of big tech firms. Nor had it capitalised on consumer attention, surveilling users and delivering ads.

Unfortunately, the AI industry is now taking a page from the social media playbook and has set its sights on monetising consumer attention. When OpenAI launched its ChatGPT Search feature in late 2024 and its browser, ChatGPT Atlas, in October 2025, it kicked off a race to capture online behavioral data to power advertising. It's part of a yearslong turnabout by OpenAI, whose CEO Sam Altman once called the combination of ads and AI "unsettling" and now promises that ads can be deployed in AI apps while preserving trust. The rampant speculation among OpenAI users who believe they see paid placements in ChatGPT responses suggests they are not convinced.

In 2024, AI search company Perplexity started experimenting with ads in its offerings. A few months after that, Microsoft introduced ads to its Copilot AI. Google's AI Mode for search now increasingly features ads, as does Amazon's Rufus chatbot. OpenAI announced on Jan. 16, 2026, that it will soon begin testing ads in the unpaid version of ChatGPT.

As a security expert and data scientist, we see these examples as harbingers of a future where AI companies profit from manipulating their users' behavior for the benefit of their advertisers and investors. It's also a reminder that time to steer the direction of AI development away from private exploitation and toward public benefit is quickly running out.



The functionality of ChatGPT Search and its Atlas browser is not really new. Meta, commercial AI competitor Perplexity and even ChatGPT itself have had similar AI search features for years, and both Google and Microsoft beat OpenAI to the punch by integrating AI with their browsers. But OpenAI's business positioning signals a shift.

We believe the ChatGPT Search and Atlas announcements are worrisome because there is really only one way to make money on search: the advertising model pioneered ruthlessly by Google.

In 2024, AI search company Perplexity started experimenting with ads in its offerings. A few months after that, Microsoft introduced ads to its Copilot AI. Google's AI Mode for search now increasingly features ads, as does Amazon's Rufus chatbot

Advertising model

Ruled a monopolist in US federal court, Google has earned more than US$1.6 trillion in advertising revenue since 2001. You may think of Google as a web search company, or a streaming video company (YouTube), or an email company (Gmail), or a mobile phone company (Android, Pixel), or maybe even an AI company (Gemini). But those products are ancillary to Google's bottom line. The advertising segment accounts for 80% to 90% of its total revenue. Everything else is there to collect users' data and direct users' attention to its advertising revenue stream.

After two decades in this monopoly position, Google's search product is much more tuned to the company's needs than those of its users. When Google Search first arrived decades ago, it was revelatory in its ability to instantly find useful information across the still-nascent web. In 2025, its search result pages are dominated by low-quality and often AI-generated content, spam sites that exist solely to drive traffic to Amazon sales – a tactic known as affiliate marketing – and paid ad placements, which at times are indistinguishable from organic results. Plenty of advertisers and observers seem to think AI-powered advertising is the future of the ad business.

Highly persuasive

Paid advertising in AI search, and AI models, could look very different from traditional web search. It has the potential to influence your thinking, spending patterns and even personal beliefs in subtle ways. Because AI can engage in active dialogue, addressing your questions, concerns and ideas rather than just filtering static content, its potential for influence is much greater. It's like the difference between reading a book and having a conversation with its author.

A different way forward

Much of this is discouraging, but there is much that can be done to change it. First, it's important to recognise that today's AI is fundamentally untrustworthy, for the same reasons that search engines and social media platforms are.

The problem is not the technology itself; fast ways to find information and communicate with friends and family can be wonderful capabilities. The problem is the priorities of the corporations who own these platforms. Recognise that you don't have control over what data is fed to the AI, who it is shared with and how it is used. It's important to keep that in mind when you connect devices and services to AI platforms, ask them questions, or consider buying or doing the things they suggest. Governments could invest in Public AI – models built by public agencies offered universally for public benefit and transparently under public oversight.

(Bruce Schneier, Harvard Kennedy School and Nathan Sanders, Harvard University, The Conversation)

Musk seeks up to $134 billion from OpenAI, Microsoft in 'wrongful gains'

Elon Musk is seeking up to $134 billion from OpenAI and Microsoft, arguing he deserves the "wrongful gains" that they received from his early support of the artificial-intelligence startup, according to a court filing on Friday.

OpenAI gained between $65.5 billion and $109.4 billion from the billionaire entrepreneur's contributions when he was co-founding OpenAI from 2015, while Microsoft gained between $13.3 billion and $25.1 billion, Musk said in the federal court filing ahead of his trial against the two companies.

OpenAI, Microsoft and Musk's lawyers did not immediately respond to requests for comment outside business hours. OpenAI has called the lawsuit "baseless" and part of a "harassment" campaign by Musk. A Microsoft lawyer has said there is no evidence that the company "aided and abetted" OpenAI.

The two companies challenged Musk's damages claims in a separate filing on Friday.

Musk, who left OpenAI in 2018 and now runs xAI with its competitor chatbot Grok, alleges that ChatGPT operator OpenAI violated its founding mission in a high-profile restructuring to a for-profit entity. A judge in Oakland, California, ruled this month that a jury will hear the trial, expected to start in April.

Musk's filing says he contributed about $38 million, 60% of OpenAI's early seed funding, helped recruit staff, connect the founders with key contacts and lend credibility to the project when it was created.

"Just as an early investor in a startup company may realise gains many orders of magnitude greater than the investor's initial investment, the wrongful gains that OpenAI and Microsoft have earned – and which Mr. Musk is now entitled to disgorge – are much larger than Mr. Musk's initial contributions," Musk argues. **Reuters**

BITS & BYTES

TECH JOBS TO GROW

The overall tech job market in India, including permanent, temporary and contractual profiles, is expected to see a 12–15 per cent uptick in 2026, adding around 1.25 lakh new roles, a report has said. The report from work solutions provider Adecco India said the talent gap soared to 44% in 2025, pushing median packages 18% higher than 2024 and creating a fierce talent war.

It highlighted demand for AI, data and cybersecurity roles grew 51 per cent as these functions shifted from experimental and discretionary to core organisational needs. **IANS**

CHINA BLOCKS NVIDIA CHIPS

Suppliers of parts for Nvidia's H200 have paused production after Chinese customs officials blocked shipments of the newly approved artificial intelligence processors from entering China, the Financial Times reported on Friday.

Reuters could not immediately verify the report, which cited two people with knowledge of the matter. Nvidia did not immediately respond to a request for comment outside regular business hours.

Nvidia had expected more than 1 million orders from Chinese clients, the report said, adding that its suppliers had been operating around the clock to prepare for shipping as early as March. **Reuters**

EXPANDED ROLE

Monzo will give TS Anil an expanded role when he steps down as chief executive of the British mobile bank next month, conceding to top shareholders who had rebelled after his departure was announced, the Financial Times reported on Saturday.

Monzo declined to comment to Reuters on the newspaper report, which cited two people it did not name who were familiar with the discussions.

The bank said in October that Anil would step down in February after almost six years as CEO, and be replaced by former Google executive Diana Layfield.

Monzo initially planned for Anil to move into an advisory role. **Reuters**

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Tender forms, along with specifications, are available for collection at the Purchase Office of Ibis Bengaluru City Centre, located at No. 30, Off Richmond Circle, Raja Ram Mohan Roy Road, Bengaluru – 560 027. They can be obtained at a cost of Rs. 1000 per application from 19th January, 2026 until 31st January, 2026. All sealed tenders should be addressed to the ACCOR Bangalore Purchase Committee. The Purchase Committee retains the right to accept or reject tenders in full or in part without providing any reasons.

All tenderers proposing to apply should note; All tenderers must possess mandatory licenses required to conduct business and comply with FSSAI Act, rules and regulations applicable at all times. Certification/labelling for all products and temperature control for chilled and frozen items as per FSSAI standards is mandatory HACCP/ISO-certified vendors will be preferred.

The deadline for submitting sealed tenders is 6:00 pm on 8th February, 2026.

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Notice to builder for tree-felling

The GBA Forest Department, ACF of east city corporation, has issued a notice to Embassy Group for allegedly felling 110 trees in Kadugodi Reserve Forest, marking the second case of illegal tree-cutting in the same patch since 2007.

According to the Assistant Conservator of Forests, an FIR was registered on December 5. During the investigation, it was discovered that the Embassy Group had violated environmental laws. While the group claimed to have obtained permission for tree-felling, it was found that no such approval had been granted, prompting the authorities to issue a notice to them.

The Kadugodi forest, spanning 78 acres, was home to over 400 fully grown trees in 2006–07, not counting smaller trees and saplings **BMB**

Nod to host IPL Matches at Chinnaswamy Stadium

The Home Department of the Government of Karnataka has formally approved the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) to host international and IPL matches at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium.

The approval comes with specific terms and conditions prescribed by the Government and other authorities, which the KSCA has assured it will fully comply with. The Association has already presented a detailed compliance roadmap to the Expert Review Committee, urging its commitment to adhering to all safety, security, and crowd-management protocols.

Acting on recommendations of the government-appointed expert panel, have directed the KSCA to complete all works and safety measures within the stipulated timeframe. The permission comes with clear riders, allowing the government and a high-level monitoring committee to oversee progress at the stadium continuously. **BMB**

KSCA must adopt additional safety and security protocols

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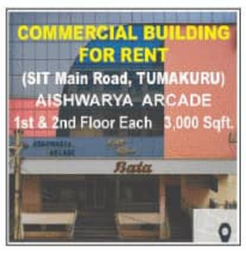

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Sri Ridhi Kovuru R/o 001, Ivory Block, H M World city, Kothanur Village JP Nagar 9th Phase B'luru-560062 have changed my name to K Shre Reedhee.

I, Basheera Banu W/o Nisar Sab R/o Flat No 501 Plot 60 Green Orchid Layout Jayanagar Bannergatta Main Road Bengaluru - 560029 Have Changed My Name to Baseera Banu for All Purposes.

I, Shrawani Kawadkar D/O, Kedar Kawadkar R/o Mana Tropicale Tower 4 T7 Chikanay -akanahalli near Primus school Off Sarjapur Rd have changed my name to Shrawani Kedar Kawadkar for all purposes.

I , SAPTHAMINAYAK D/O J SURESH Nayak R/O 97, lakshmiramanivasa Vaishnavi Nagar Kumaraswamy layout Bangalore 560078 change my name to J SAPTHAMI NAYAK for all purpose

I, Nikhita Shetty, aged 20 yrs, D/o. Prashanth Shetty, R/o. #1630, 10th Cross, 16th Main, Nisarga L/o, Harapanahalli, Bannerghatta, Blr-560083, have changed my name to NIKHITA PRASHANTH SHETTY for all purposes

I, Sujay S, son of SURYANARAYANAN P S, have changed my name to SUJAY SURYANARAYANAN vide affidavit [IN-KA52801030202057Y] dated 16/01/2026, for all future purposes

I, Priya Savan Javia W/o Savankumar Amrutlal Javia residing at C501,Plama Heigh - ts, Hennur Main Road, Kalyan Nagar, Bengaluru-560043 have changed my name to Priya Savankumar Javia vide affidavit dtd 16/01/2026 before notary Uday Kumar K, Blr.

I, Manohar Reddy Ramachandra Reddy Salla, aged 55 yrs, S/o. Rama Chandra Reddy Salla, #457, Unnathi Nilaya, 13TH A Mn, Hongasandra, MICO L/o., Blr-068, have changed my name to MANOHAR REDDY SALLA for all purposes

I, NALINA R/at No. 22, 23 Kamadhenu Nilaya 1st A Cross M R Riches Garden NRI Layout Bengaluru -560043 have changed my name to T J Nalina vide affidavit dated: 13/1/2026 Before Notary K.V.Mani Bangalore

I, Shilparani, D/o. Naganna Junja, Aged about 37 years, residing at Plot No.125, Basava Nilambike Nilaya, 2nd Cross, Kailash Nagar, Gulbarga, Karnataka 585101. I have changed my name to SHILPARANI NAGANNA vide affidavit dated : 14/01/2026 efore N Sandhya.

I Vidya Subodh Hegde, W/o. Subodh B Hegde, residing at Flat No.B3-3C-408, Ferns Provident Park Square, Kanakapura Main Road, Judicial layout, Talaghattapura, Bangalore 560062. My name is mentioned in some documents as Hegde Vidya Vittal and Vidya Subodh Hegde are pertain to one and the same person vide affidavit dated:13/01/2026 before Notary S R Thulasikrishna.

I, GEETA BHAT, Residing at Flat No A703, Club Meadows House of Hiranandani Apt, Akshaya Nagar, Off Bannerghatta Main Road, Bangalore-560068, Have changed my name to GEETA GANAPATI BHAT vide affidavit dated 17/01/2026 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Bangalore

LOST & FOUND

LOST: I, DEVARAJA E, S/o Eramuddappa, residing at No. 1/1B, Sandipini School road, Nagadevanahalli, Jnanabharathi, Bengaluru-560056, I am a Notary Public, Govt. of Karnataka, Registration no.20356, Located in No.525, 1st Main, 3rd Block, 2nd Stage, Sub-Register office, Nagarbhavi, Bangalore-560072, have lost my Original Notary register Book no.1 pages no.1 to 631 Book no.2 pages 632 to 1279, Book no.3 pages 1280 to 1878 have lost at the time of Xerox, regarding this i have given a police complaint (No.2012351/2026) dt: 16.01.2026, Finder pls contact: 99003 31717 or Handover to the nearest police station.

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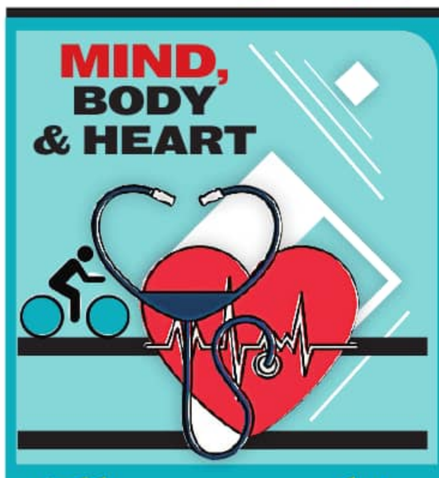
HEALTH TIP: Taking a small amount of apple cider vinegar before a meal can help balance the stomach's pH level

Aloe vera gel is arguably nature's finest remedy for minor burns, including sunburns



All you need to know about...

Staying active

In adolescence
Adolescent girls who actively partake in recreational physical activity can have significant protection against risks of breast cancer, according to a study.

Reduced stress
Researchers from the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health in the US showed that recreational physical activity may be associated with breast tissue composition and biomarkers of stress in adolescent girls.

At time of breast development
In the study, girls who reported engaging in at least two hours of recreational physical activity in the prior week, compared with none, had lower percent water content in breast tissue -- an indicator of lower breast density and lower concentrations of urinary biomarkers linked to stress.
The findings, published in the journal Breast Cancer Research, shed new light on how physical activity during adolescence -- a critical period of breast development -- may influence biological pathways related to future breast cancer risk.

Importance of study
"The importance and urgency of this research are underscored by the rising incidence of breast cancer in young women and the alarmingly low levels of recreational physical activity observed both in this study and among adolescents globally," said Rebecca Kehm, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology at Columbia Mailman School of Public Health.
"Our findings suggest that recreational physical activity is associated with breast tissue composition and stress biomarker changes in adolescent girls, independent of body fat, which could have important implications for breast cancer risk," Kehm added.
The study aligns with previous research in adult women showing that higher levels of physical activity are associated with lower mammographic breast density, a key predictor of breast cancer risk.

—IANS

FOOD AS WORK OF ART

Rooted in tradition with a touch of modernity, these recipes will win you many admirers

TANDOORI ZAFFRANI GUCCHI

INGREDIENTS
- 100 Gram Morels mushroom (gucchi)
- 50 Gram Goat cheese
- 25 Gram Processed cheese
- 1 Gram Elaichi powder
- 5 Gram Chat masala
- 2 Gram Cumin seeds
- 5 Gram Coriander fresh
- 20 Gram Butter
- 2 Gram Ginger
- 50 Gram Amul cream
- 0.01 Gram Saffron
- 2 No Green chilli
- 5 Gram Garlic

- 50 Gram Hung curd
- 1 Tsp Turmeric powder
- 1 Tsp Garam masala
- 1 Tsp Kasuri methi

METHOD
- Prepare Gucchi: soak dry gucchi mushrooms overnight. Next day, gently wash them multiple times until water runs clear. Trim the stems.
- Gucchi Filling: Finely chop Gucchi, fresh coriander, ginger, garlic and green chilli. Mix in cumin powder, turmeric powder, salt, goat cheese, processed cheese and garam masala. Combine everything well.
- Fill each Gucchi mushroom with the prepared filling using a piping bag
- Marinade Mix: Whisk together – Hung curd, Cream, Green cardamom powder, Garam masala, Cumin powder, Turmeric powder, Kasuri methi, Mustard oil, Salt, Saffron. Sieve the mixture to remove lumps, if any.
- Marinate the Gucchi: Gently toss stuffed Gucchi mushrooms in the marinade, coating them well. Marinate for a short time before cooking.
- Cooking of Gucchi mushrooms: Skewer marinated Gucchi mushrooms. Cook in a preheated Tandoor oven until cooked through and slightly charred.
- Saffron sauce: In a saucepan, melt butter over medium heat. Sauté chopped onion until soft and translucent (2-3 minutes). Add minced garlic; cook for 30 seconds until fragrant. Add milk, cream, and saffron. Season with salt to taste.
- Serving: Arrange hot Tandoori Gucchi on a serving plate. Drizzle with saffron sauce. Garnish with crisp Gucchi bits and fresh microgreens.

CHILEAN SEABASS MOILEE, KIRI BAATH AUR CHAUNKWALI ASPARAGUS

INGREDIENTS
- 450 Gram Chilean sea bass
- 50 Gram Tomato
- 2 Gram Mustard seed
- 50 Ml Coconut oil
- 1 Tsp Turmeric powder
- 4 Gram Ginger
- 2 No Green chilli
- 80 Gram Butter
- 40 Gram Ginger and garlic paste
- 5 Gram Curry leaf
- 1 Tbs Jeera powder
- 2 Tbs Coriender leaf
- Salt to taste
- 1 Gram Black pepper
- 400 Ml Coconut milk
- 100 Gram Onion
- 100 Gram Hung curd
- 100 Gram cream
- 10 Gram Cumin powder
- 5 Gram Garam masala powder
- 2 Gram Kasuri methi
- 30 Ml Mustard oil
- 100 Gram Jerra rice
- 1 Tsp Sugar
- 6 No Asparagus

METHOD
- Marination of fish: - Clean and dry the fish, 1st marination add ginger-garlic paste, salt, lemon juice and store in refrigerator for 2 hours.
- 2nd marination hung curd, cream, cumin powder, garam masala, kasuri methi, mustard oil and salt. Marinate properly then store in refrigerator for 30 minutes. Cook in Tandoor oven.
- Method for moilee sauce: - heat coconut oil in a wide pan. Add mustard seeds let sputter, add cumin seeds, curry leaves, add

onions, sauté till soft and golden, add ginger-garlic paste cook, add green chilli & tomato cook till mushy. Add turmeric powder and chilli powder. Add 1 cup water, bring to a boil, and simmer for 5 minutes. Pour in thin coconut milk and gently simmer. Add salt to taste, turn off heat, add fresh coriander.
- Method for kiri bhat: In a heavy-bottom pan, combine rice, coconut milk, water, salt, and sugar. Bring to a boil over medium heat stir once reduce to low. Cover tightly cook 15–18 mins until liquid is absorbed and rice is tender. Turn off heat and let it sit for 5 mins.
- Method for chowk wali asparagus: Blanch the asparagus until tender, toss in melted butter, minced garlic, chopped green chilli, salt, and pepper.
- Serving: Place Kiri Bhat on one side of the plate. Gently position the Chilean sea bass on the opposite side, skin side up. Top the sea bass with Chowk Wali Asparagus. Spoon Moilee Sauce around the fish and rice. Garnish with microgreens and serve hot.

NALLI NIHARI

The royal bone marrow delight (Slow-cooked lamb shank stew with aromatic Indian spices, perfect for special dinner. A classic from Delhi old-world kitchen)

INGREDIENTS
Qty Unit Ingredients
- 1000 Gms Mutton nalli
- 70 Ml Ghee
- 6 No Green chilli
- 8 Nos Green cardamom
- 50 Gms Ginger-garlic paste
- 50 Gms Curd
- 50 Gms Brown onion
- 200 Gms Onion
- 1 Tsp Kashmiri red chilli powder
- 1 Tsp Green cardamom powder
- Salt to taste
- 1 Tsp Garam masala powder
- 1 Tsp Coriander powder
- 500 Ml Mutton stock
- 20 Ml Saffron water
- 10 Gms Javitri
- 10 Gms Clove
- 30 Gms Cinnamon stick
- 50 Gms Pan root
- 1 Gms Khas khas root
- 1 Gms Dry rose petal

METHOD
- Nihari potli masala: Cinnamon, Cardamom, Cloves, Coriander, Bay leaves, Pan root, Khaskhas root, Rose petal. Tie in a small cloth pouch (potli) for simmering in stock or gravy.
- Marinate Nalli: Clean and dry mutton nalli. Mix with - Ginger-garlic paste, Salt, Garam masala, Chilli powder, Turmeric powder, Curd. Marinate well and refrigerate for 6 hours.
- Nihari Curry: - Heat ghee in a deep stock pot. Add whole garam masala, sliced onions, green chilli, fry till brown. Add ginger-garlic paste; cook 2 minutes. Add marinated nalli, coriander powder, turmeric, red chilli powder, curd and salt. Mix well sauté for 10–15 minutes. Add potli masala and mutton stock. Cover; cook on low heat for 4 hours or till meat is tender. Finish with ghee & saffron water.
- Garnish with ginger strips, coriander leaves, brown onion. Serve hot!

Recipes by Santanu Dey, Chef De Cuisine, Ahara, The Oterra Hotel

mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com
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Worth a billion views

Tamannaah thanks fans as riveting dance sequence continues to resonate

Tamannaah Bhatia has added another milestone to her recent run as 'Aaj Ki Raat' from 'Stree 2' has crossed one billion views. It dropped in 2024, took off straight away, and people never really stopped playing it. It kept pulling viewers on streaming platforms and lived on through a constant loop of social clips. Viewers kept coming back for the bold visuals, riveting dance moves and her commanding presence, which helped the video to stay popular for months. The milestone also ties in with the strong run of 'Stree 2', one of 2024's biggest Hindi blockbusters.

The video has crossed one billion views on YouTube. Tamannaah marked the moment by posting behind-the-scenes snippets on Instagram and thanking viewers for their support.

Bhatia shared candid videos from the set and wrote, "From 1st view to 1 Billion Views! Thank you for all the love."

The clips showed her reviewing shots on a monitor with choreographer Vijay Ganguly and members of the crew. When Vijay suggested trying another take after praising a shot, Tamannaah responded playfully with, "Nooo!"

Another clip showed her completing a take and walking back to check the footage, smiling with satisfaction. Aaj Ki Raat' is a sultry dance track built around longing and control. The lyrics show a woman who allows admiration but keeps her distance, letting the mood do the talking. Viewers connected strongly with its mood and presentation. The track was sung by Madhubanti Bagchi and Divya Kumar. Amitabh Bhattacharya wrote the lyrics, while Sachin-Jigar composed the music. Both the song and its video gained massive traction soon after release.

Tamannaah is now preparing for her next release, 'VVAN: Force of the Forest'. **—ETimes**

Rally cry for literacy

BHARATHI TEACHER
3.0 RATING ★★★☆☆
- **DIRECTOR** ML Prasanna
- **ACTORS** Rohit Raghavendra, Yashika, Sihi Kahi Chandru, Ashwin Hassan, Govinde Gowda
- **CERTIFICATION** U
- **Duration** 139 minutes

Director Prasanna has succeeded in choosing an apt cast in this movie that revolves around the importance of education. The movie also manages to convey how a person with perseverance and dedication can achieve their goals despite the hurdles. Scenes depicting illiterate people in rural areas are a call to authorities to pull up their socks and implement government schemes and construct school buildings to spread literacy. The movie features actor Aditya and Minister for Labour Santosh Lad in special appearances.

The movie begins with a teacher (Sihi Kahi Chandru) going to meet Jayakka (Soujanya Sunil) to inform her about her husband's death. He becomes a guardian to Jayakka's daughter Bharathi (Yashika) who becomes a topper in the 7th standard examination. She decides to help villagers to become literate. You have to watch the movie to know what happens to Bharathi.

Yashika is at her best. Her facial gestures are superb. Sihi Kahi Chandru is convincing as a teacher. Ashwin Hassan and Govinde Gowda provide good support in roles that are different from what they have been seen in before. Ashwin Hassan plays a hapless police inspector while Govinde Gowda, known for comedy roles, plays the villain. Rohit Raghavendra, who debuts as an actor with this movie, has also provided good support. Cinematographer MB Hallikatti has done an excellent job behind the camera by capturing the beauty and the greenery of rural areas in Mandya district. The movie has around 10 songs and the lyrics are penned by director Prasanna himself.

The movie is worth a watch for families. **—Y Maheswara Reddy**

Amanda Seyfried wants to play Dolly Parton

Hollywood actress Amanda Seyfried says she wants to play Dolly Parton on the big screen because she's "one of the best human beings on the planet".

She also shared that she really wants to take on the challenge of playing a musician who plays the guitar revealing she was once lined up to play folk star Joni Mitchell but the project fell through.

In a question-and-answer session for deadline.com, she was asked who she would consider playing. She said: "Eva Cassidy has a story out there. There's a story there. And you could make a Dolly Parton musical. There's a story there too obviously. My God. And her voice. Her sweet, sweet sweetheart voice."

"Dolly Parton is one of the best human beings on the planet. So it would be fun to portray her." **IANS**

Father first, actor second

As Ranveer Singh continues to bask in the unprecedented success of Dhurandhar, the New Year brought with it a far more personal celebration for the actor. Ranveer welcomed 2026 in New York with wife Deepika Padukone and their daughter Dua, and the glimpses from their holiday captured a phase marked by both professional triumph and emotional fulfilment.

The pictures and videos that surfaced reflected a sense of calm and joy, with the actor clearly relishing time away from film sets. The glow on the couple's faces spoke volumes—this wasn't just a celebratory break after a box office storm, but a moment of togetherness centred around their daughter Dua.

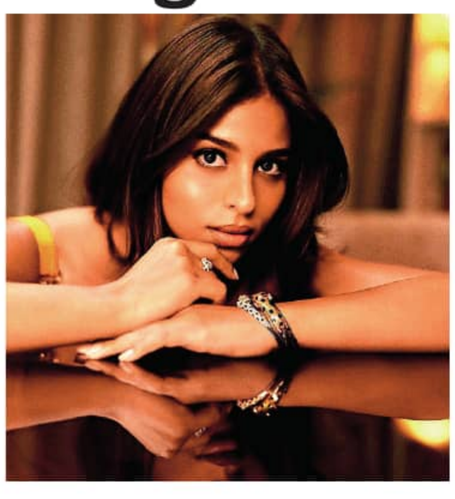
A Mid-day report highlighted how deeply Ranveer has embraced fatherhood amid his career high. "New Year's was a special time as it is every year, but this year is even more special. Earlier, Ranveer was very busy with Dhurandhar. He made sure he was a doting father and husband, travelling back home even if it was for a few hours in between shoots. And after Dhurandhar's massive success, he is spending all his time with Dua," the insider shared.

The source further added, "Arrival of daughter changes fortunes, and Dua has brought good luck to him, his lakshmi, and he is making the most of his time before Dhurandhar 2 with her. A daughter can truly be a blessing, and this is a beautiful example for us." **— ETimes**

What rejection taught her

Suhana Khan, daughter of Shah Rukh Khan and Gauri Khan, may have been born into one of Bollywood's most celebrated families, but her decision to become an actor came from a moment of rejection rather than privilege. In a new interview with Harper's Bazaar India, Suhana revealed that it was a failed audition during her school days that made her realise how deeply she wanted to act.

Recalling her time at Ardingly College in the UK, Suhana shared that she auditioned for a school play and was keen on landing a role. When the cast list was announced, she found herself placed in the chorus instead. The setback hit her harder than she had anticipated. "I was so upset and disappointed. And I think that's when I knew that I really wanted to play those parts and enjoy the thrill of being on stage," she said. Suhana admitted she cried alone in her room, taken aback by how



emotionally invested she was. That moment of rejection, she realised, was proof that acting wasn't just something expected of her—it was something she genuinely wanted.

Suhana also acknowledged that she wasn't initially interested in acting and even felt nudged toward it at one point. It was that personal moment of disappointment that shifted her perspective. **— ETimes**

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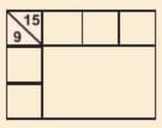
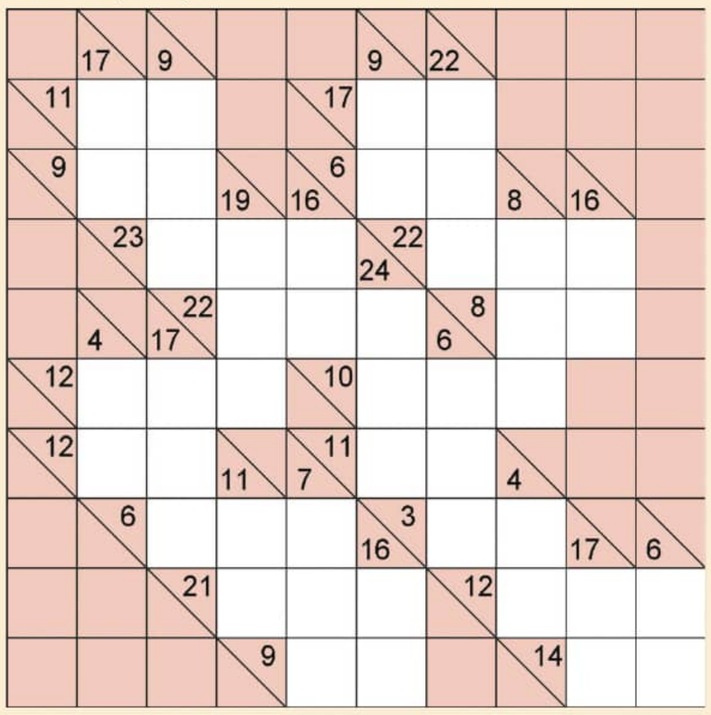
Kakuro

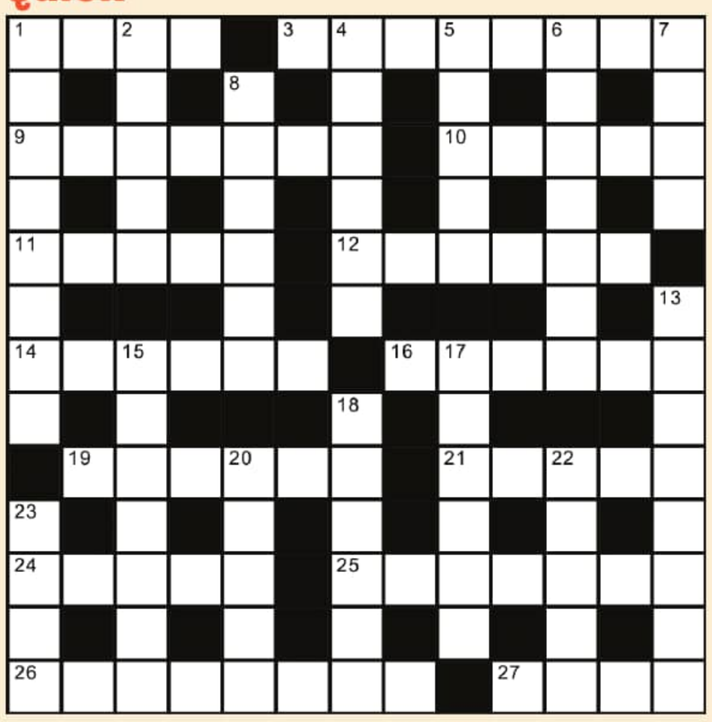
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Sound quality (4)
3 Recondite, esoteric (8)
9 Unmarried women or young girls (7)
10 Attitude, beliefs (5)
11 Marshy tributary (5)
12 Secure by intimidation (6)
14 Former Zimbabwe President Robert ____ (6)
16 Curry containing pork (6)
19 Animal enclosure (6)
21 West Indies magic (5)
24 Very bad informally (5)
25 Accept or act as a fence? (7)
26 Make-believe (8)
27 Employed (4)

DOWN

1 Explosive device with a ticker? (4-4)
2 Loud or obstreperous (5)
4 Arrested (slang) (6)
5 Larceny (5)
6 Conducted or brought in (7)
7 Simple to do (4)
8 Make torpid or insensible (6)
13 Kept back (8)
15 Droplet (7)
17 Immediately (2,4)
18 Clergyman (6)
20 Versification (5)
22 Revises copy (5)
23 Smack (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: O EQUALS D

GP OQR'E MYXP YR PEPLRBEZ EQ LPYABDP QWL OLPYKI, QRAZ EMP EBKP GP YLP MPLP.

Linemaro

I am so good at algebra that I could replace your x and you would not even know y

Mindchow

The wound is the place where the light enters you

Joke of the day

I have given two cousins to war and am ready to sacrifice my wife's brother

Loop

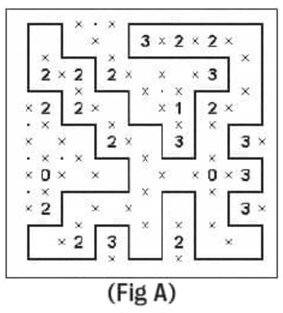
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

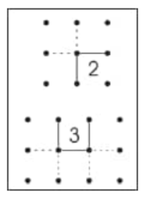
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

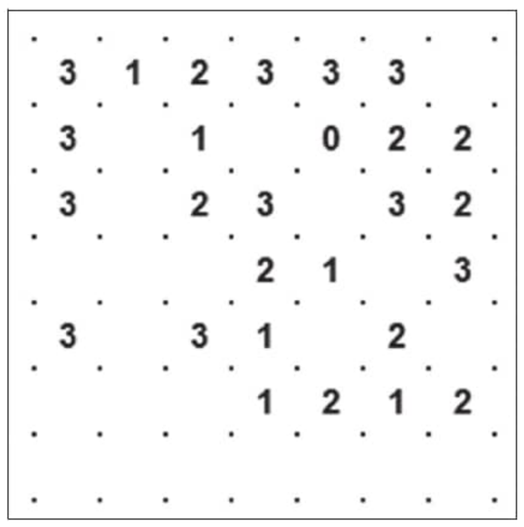
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



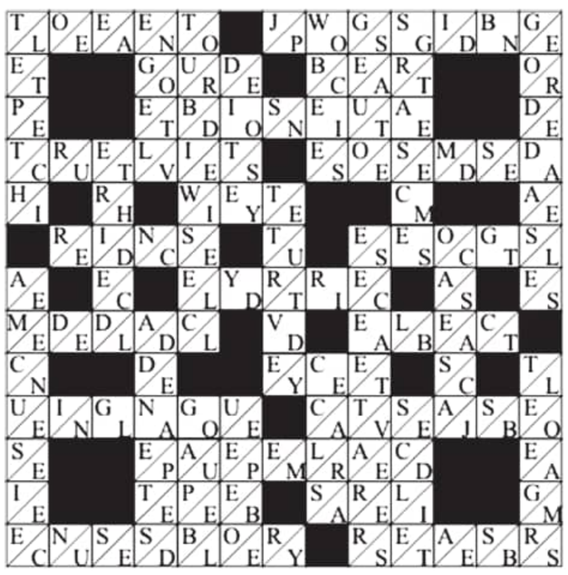
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



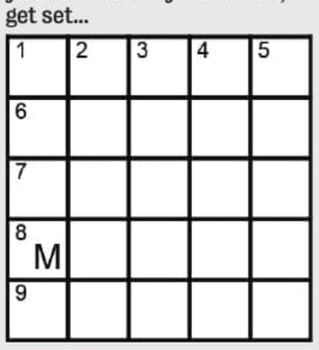
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

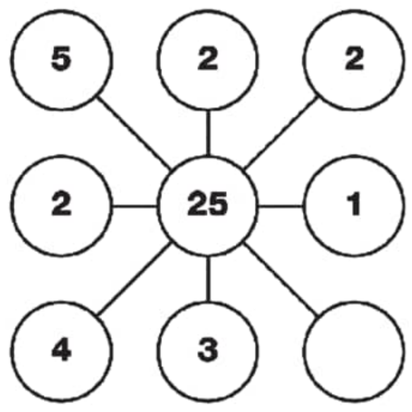
1 Colts; 6 Caper;
7 A luv U; 8 Lemon;
9 Begin

DOWN

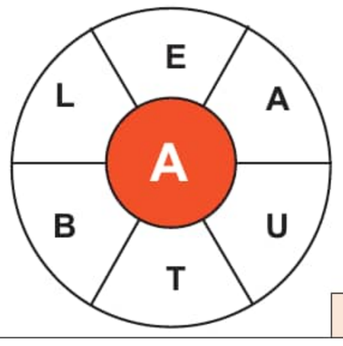
1 Mr Cub; 2 Vee Le;
3 Uli Co; 4 Tonal;
5 GNP as

Mensapuzzle

Which number goes in the empty circle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

12 Average; **14** Good; **16** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

				3				
3		1	4		2	6		5
	9		5		8		4	
9				1				3
4		3				8		7
7				8				4
	3		6		1		9	
5		4	3		9	1		6
				5				

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 6

3 6 6 9

Medium = 10

4 5 5 7

Hard = 14

5 7 9 7

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

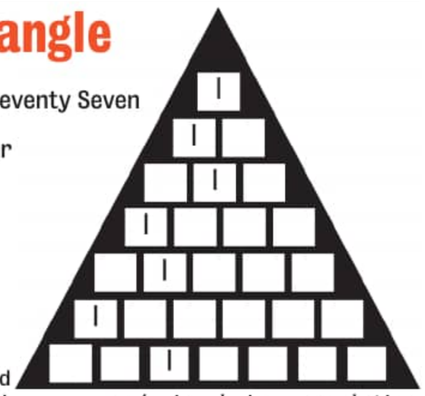
Differences: 1. Back of chair is higher. 2. Paper is added. 3. Tie is different. 4. Mustache is missing. 5. Nose is smaller. 6. Man's mouth is different.

Riddler

A man and his son had a terrible car accident and were rushed to the hospital. The man died on the way, but the son was still barely alive. When they arrived, an old gray surgeon was called in to operate. Upon seeing the young boy, the surgeon said, "I can't operate – this is my son." How is this possible?

Alpha triangle

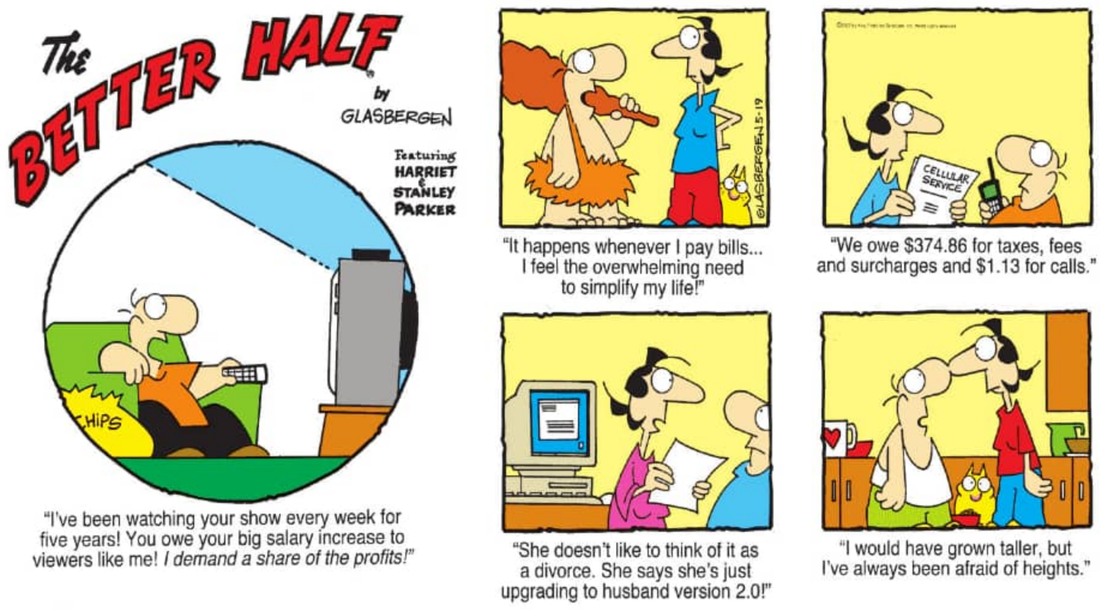
1 Egoistic letter
2 Atomic number Seventy Seven
3 Brazil port
4 Clothes-smoother
5 Insignificant
6 Tell, notify
7 Unvarying



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS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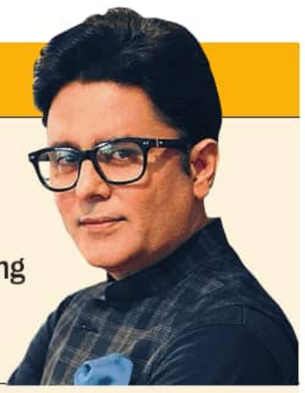
CHIPS
"I've been watching your show every week for five years! You owe your big salary increase to viewers like me! I demand a share of the profits!"
"It happens whenever I pay bills... I feel the overwhelming need to simplify my life!"
"We owe $374.86 for taxes, fees and surcharges and $1.13 for calls."
"She doesn't like to think of it as a divorce. She says she's just upgrading to husband version 2.0!"
"I would have grown taller, but I've always been afraid of heights."

FLASH GORDON
I REMEMBER A WORLD BEFORE EMPEROR MING.
LAWLESS. CHAOTIC.
THEY CALLED HIM "MERCILESS," BUT MING'S LAW BROUGHT ORDER TO GENERATIONS.
AND MY JUDGMENTS CONVERTED HIS LAW INTO JUSTICE.
MING IS GONE, BUT I REMAIN-- LOGICAL, IMPARTIAL.
ENSURING JUSTICE WILL ENDURE.
I AM INQUISITOR AEGIA, AND IT FALLS ON ME TO DETERMINE IF FLASH GORDON -- SUPPOSED KILLER OF EMPEROR MING --
-- HAS ALSO KILLED MING'S SON.
HE CLAIMS MING II ACCOSTED HIM -- THAT THEY STRUGGLED IN THE DARK UNTIL THE VICTIM WAS STABBED BY AN UNSEEN PARTY.
DUBIOUS.
FACTS:
-FLASH IS A LONGTIME ALLY OF PRINCESS AURA, WHOSE ROYAL CLAIM THE VICTIM WAS CHALLENGING.
-HE PUBLICLY THREATENED THE VICTIM.
-THE MURDER WEAPON WAS A STEAK KNIFE FROM THE ROYAL RECEPTION, WHICH HE HAD JUST LEFT.
I GIVE RULERS AURA AND BARIN MY VERDICT:
THERE IS STRONG EVIDENCE OF FLASH GORDON'S GUILT, AND HE WILL BE PLACED IN THE TOMBS PENDING A FULL INVESTIGATION.
HIS FELLOW ALIENS TRY TO DENY MY VERDICT...
...BUT MONGO'S NEW RULERS CANNOT BE SEEN TO SUBVERT THE LAW TO HELP THEIR ALLY.
I RESPECT THIS. IN THE PURSUIT OF JUSTICE, ONE CANNOT BE SOFT. SENTIMENTAL. LIBERAL.
ONE MUST BE MERCILESS.
NEXT: THE TOMBS

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR



If it's your birthday today

The cosmos is shining a light on your professional aspirations and public image. Take on more responsibility; your hard work will be recognised and justly rewarded. Focus on disciplined effort and building a professional network. This cycle supports your highest ambitions, leading to a significant and well-deserved rise in status.

Aries Mar 21–Apr 20

Steady gym habits uplift your energy. Financial shifts bring learning and opportunity. Proactive actions enhance workplace success. Domestic matters resolve peacefully. Travel improves with patience. Property considerations need timing.

Taurus Apr 21–May 20

Gentle exercise boosts wellness today. Unexpected financial help brings relief. New professional openings feel encouraging. Your calming presence helps family harmony. Travel brings joy. Academic matters progress positively.

Gemini May 21–Jun 21

Long journeys unfold smoothly and comfortably. Recognition for extracurricular achievements lifts your spirit. Careful attention supports wise property decisions. Wellness improves with mindful habits. Finances balance gradually.

Cancer Jun 22–July 23

Following trusted guidance strengthens your health. Resources support meaningful purchases. Hidden talents shine during opportunities. Family celebrations bring joy. Travel is pleasant. Property matters resolve smoothly.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Consistent routines nurture strong well-being. Loans return easily. New projects energise you. Someone uplifting brightens your home. Travel improves when you stay light. Private property discussions progress well.

Virgo Aug 24–Sep 23

Movement increases motivation today. Thoughtful planning supports financial growth. Busy schedules bring productive outcomes. Family matters require empathy and patience. Road travel feels comfortable. Property purchases align strongly.

Libra Sep 24–Oct 22

Balanced rest enhances fitness. Postpone major investments for now. Work feels steady and manageable. Emotional harmony strengthens partnerships. Travel companions make journeys delightful.

Scorpio Oct 23–Nov 22

Rest renews your vitality. Exploring additional income opportunities brings promising ideas. Professional breakthroughs appear. Home feels joyful. Travel flows smoothly. Property matters benefit from patience.

Sagittarius Nov 23–Dec 22

Healthy discipline strengthens your vitality. Manage finances thoughtfully. Workplace clarity improves with steady communication. Family calm enhances happiness. Travel plans shift gently.

Capricorn Dec 23–Jan 20

Movement eases you into stronger health. Financial gains uplift your mood. Work cooperation strengthens team progress. Homemakers acquire useful skills. Travel reunites you with someone special. Academic success grows through patience.

Aquarius Jan 21–Feb 19

New purchases uplift your spirit. Inspiring motivation helps someone progress. Wellness becomes clearer. Work demands balance but meaningful efforts shine. Family moments strengthen bonds.

Pisces Feb 20–Mar 20

Excellent energy shapes your day. Smart budgeting supports stability. Work challenges inspire resourcefulness. Family guidance uplifts your thoughts. Travel creates refreshing joy. Academic resources become easier to gather.

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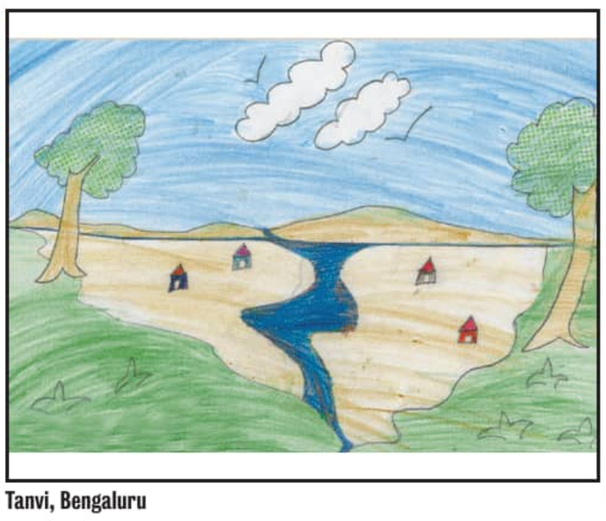
KIDZONE



Tanvi, Bengaluru

Tanvir, Bengaluru

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SOLUTIONS

BULL'S EYE

abate, abet, able, abut, bale, bate, beat, beau, beta, bleat, late, table, tABLEAU, tale, teal, tuba

SOLVE IN 1M

√[¼-1] = 2
√[1/¼] = √[4]

STRIKE OUT

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE

6. The sum of the values around the edge of the puzzle add up to the centre number.

QUOTE UNCODE

We don't have an eternity to realize our dreams, only the time we are here.

SUDOKU

8	4	5	1	3	6	7	2	9
3	7	1	4	9	2	6	8	5
6	9	2	5	7	8	3	4	1
9	5	8	7	1	4	2	6	3
4	2	3	9	6	5	8	1	7
7	1	6	2	8	3	9	5	4
2	3	7	6	4	1	5	9	8
5	8	4	3	2	9	1	7	6
1	6	9	8	5	7	4	3	2

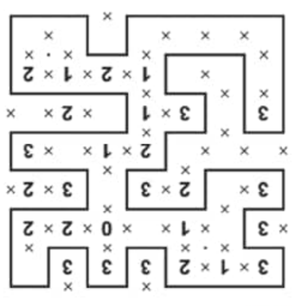
ALPHA TRIANGLE

I, Ir, Rio, Iron, Minor, Inform, Uniform.

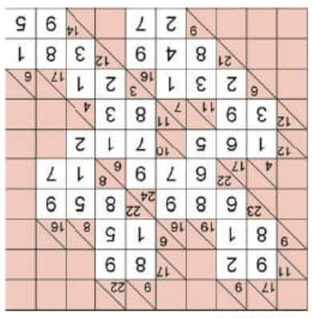
GO FIGURE

Easy
6 - 9 - 6 + 3 = 6
Medium
5 + 4 - 7 x 5 = 10
Hard
7 / 7 x 9 + 5 = 14

LOOP



KAKURO



RIDDLER

The surgeon was the boy's mother.

FAST FIVE

C	L	O	T	S
R	E	C	A	P
U	V	U	L	A
M	E	L	O	N
B	E	I	N	G

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*Terms & conditions apply. *Offers and benefits mentioned on 2025 manufactured cars and are valid till 31st January 2026 or till stocks last. Offers and benefits mentioned include cash, corporate, government employee exclusive offers, either exchange or scrappage benefits as applicable. 3-year unlimited km warranty is applicable for EXTER, VENUE, VENUE N Line, CRETA, CRETA N Line, CRETA Electric, ALCAZAR, VERNA and IONIQ 5. ^^Up to 7 Years extended warranty or 1 40 000 km whichsoever is earlier is available for Grand i10 NIOS, i20, i20 N Line, AURA, VERNA, EXTER, VENUE, VENUE N Line, CRETA, CRETA N Line, CRETA Electric & ALCAZAR in all variants (Petrol/Diesel/CNG) and subject to payment. ##CSD: Canteen Stores Department, KPKB: Kendriya Police Kalyan Bhandar.